her BUNCH's Closet
NEWLY BROKE OPEN,
CONTAINING
RE Secrets of ART
and Nature.
Tried and Experienced
LEARNED PHILOSOPH
commended to all Ingenious
MEN and MAIDS
cting them in a natural Way how
get good Wives & Husbands
PART the FIRST.

BURSLEM:
PRINTED FOR THE STATIONERS

TO THE

READER.

Mother Bunch's Cabinet broke Open.

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READing over some antient hiſtories it was my chance to meet with this ſtory of an old woman, who liv'd in the weſt, who took delight in ſtudying her fortune: when ſhe found herſelf full twenty years old, ſhe thought her luck worſe than ſome who were married at fifteen or ſixteen, which much troubled her; but to prevent all doubts, ſhe reſolved to try a ſtory ſhe had often heard her mother talk of; & finding it true, ſhe reſolved to teach other maidens. On a time, this old woman having newly buried her huſband, was taking a walk in the fields, for the benefit of the air,

ſometimes thinking of the loſs of her huſbands, for ſhe had three, yet had a great deſire for a fourth. So it happened as ſhe was walking alone, ſhe eſpied a young maid by a meadow ſide, Good morrow maid, ſaid the old woman how do? are not you well? Yes mother, I am very well, but ſomewhat troubled in my mind. What is it troubles you ſo much? if I can I will willingly relieve you, therefore be not aſhamed to tell the truth. Is it any thing of great concern? indeed mother, ſeeing you urge me ſo much, I will tell youthe truth, We are three ſiſters, the youngeſt was married about a year ago, the other laſt week, & I am the eldeſt, & no man heeds me. Well, daughter, if this be all, I believe I can aſſiſt thee, for when I was young I was in the ſame condition, and with reading ſome hiſtories, found out the art to know him that would be my huſband, which, if thou will keep my counſel, I am ready to teach thee. If you will do ſo much for me, I ſhall think myſelf very much obliged to you, and if my fortune

prove

proves right I will make you amends.

Why then, I will tell you in the firſt place, you muſt obſerve St. Agnes's day which is the 21ſt of January, and on the beſt ſhift thou haſt, and when thou lieſt down, lay thy right hand under thy head, and ſay theſe words, now the God of love ſend me my deſires; then go to ſleep as ſoon as poſſible, and you ſhall be ſure to dream of him who will be your huſband, and ſee him ſtand before you, and may take notice of him and his complexion, and if he offer to ſalute thee, do not deny him, but ſhew him as much favour as thou canſt, and now daughter the counſel I have given you beſure to tell nobody, ſo fare you well till I ſee you again.

I give you thanks for yonr advice, but one thing I have to say, what is your name? and where do you live? I will tell you daughter, my name is mo-

Bunch, and I live at a place called Bonaventure, where, if you will come I will make you welcome.

Now Mother Bunch having departed from the maid, ſhe met another pretty girl. Good morrow, Mother Bunch, Good moorrow, pretty maid, whither are you going this morning? methinks you are very fine to-day. Fine Mother Bunch you do but think ſo. Nay I cannot diſcommend you; for ſuch a briſk maid as you ſhould go handſome or you'll never get a ſweetheart, though you think the time long. No, no, Mother, I am too young. How old are you? I am eighteen. Eighteen! then I know thou thinkeſt thou haſt ſtay'd long enough, & wouldeſt as willingly have a huſband as another. Aye. Mother Bunch, but good huſbands are hard to find, eſpecially for me, who have no ſkill in chuſing, or elſe it may be I would be glad of a good huſband. Be sure take my advice, be wiſe in chuſing, that is to say, take no one that has got a red head; for be sure he loveth a smock so well, that he will not

let

let his wife have a good one on her back nor a yellow hair, if he is inclinable to be jealous; nor a black man, for he is dogged. Aye, but mother, if I muſt not have yellow, black nor red, what colour muſt I take? Why daughter, I tell you if he be jealous, you will be forced by his speeches to make it good, for how can a young woman forbear what ſhe is always told of? & be ſure, if he is jealous of thee thou mayeſt well be so of him; for whores & thieves thing ill of each other But hold a little, one thing more I have to ſay, and that is. to take notice of thy sweethearts when they come a wooing to thee; I mean their civil behaviour; if they swear, vow, & make great proteſtations, then have a care of thyſelf, for many words breed diſſimulation, therefore take care of ſuch, but if a man come to thee that is ſober, & civil behaved there are hopes of his proving a good man. Now mother, I will take my leave of you giving you many thanks for your good advice; & so farewell till I see you again, and I intend to take this council.

Another time Mother Bunch was in little meadow, nor far from her houſe on the 30th of April, before ſun-riſing a handsome maid seeing her alone came to her and said, Mother Bunch, good morrow, how do you do? pray what makes you abroad so early in the morning? you seem to be in a deep ſtudy, daughter you say very true, I am studying who ſhall be my next hnſband.

Hark! hark! daghter is not yonder the Cuckoo ſinging? yes, yes but I have not heard her ſing this year before now, Then daughter, ſit down by me but hold. Are you faſting? Yes, but has no man kiſſed yon? No, then ſit thee down by me; I think the cuckoo is mad, what a life ſhe does lead, but no matter for that, pull off thy right ſhoe and ſtocking and let me look

look between thy great toe and the next. How daughter see this hair is a long one, look well at it, and tell me what colour is it, I think it is yellow; the same colour will be thy husband's hair.

Mother Bunch you make me smile you talk so merrily, come daughter it is no great matter, merry talk does no harm, but drives the time away, but as for the deed doing, I leave that to your self, But hark! daughter I have had three husbands myself, and I think to have another, & do you I am so mad to tell him all I do, then my daughter I have another way to tell you who must be your husband, I have proved it true, & it is the best time of the year to try it, and observe what I say, take a

St. Thomas's onion, pare it, & lay it on a clean handkerchief under your pillow; & put on a clean smock, and as you lie down, lay your arms abroad, & say these words:

Good St. Thomas do me right,
And bring my love to me this night,
That I mny view him in the face,
And in my arms may him enbrace.

Then lying on thy back, with thy arms abroad, go to sleep as soon as you can, & in your first sleep you shall dream of him who is to be your husband & he will come and offer to kiss you; do not hinder him, but catch him in thy arms, & strive to hold him for that is he. This I have tried, & it has proved true. Yet I have another pretty way for a maid to know her sweetheart which is as follows Take a summer apple of the best fruit, stick pins close in the apple to the head, & as you stick them take notice which of them is the middlemost, and give it what name you fancy; put it into thy

on Saturday night, after thou getteſt into bed, then clap thy hands together, and say theſe words:

If thou be he that must have me
To be thy wedded bride,
Make no delay but come away
This night to my bedside.

And in thy ſleep thou ſhalt see him come in his ſhirt, and if he offer thee any abuſe, he will be great with another woman; but if he puts his hand over thee, be not afraid, for it is a ſign he'll prove a good huſband; that this is a good way for a young man to know is sweetheart, giving the middlemoſt pin the name he fancies beſt, putting the apple in his right hand glove, and laying it under his pillow when he is in bed, saying:

If thou be she that must have me,
In wedlock for to join,
Make no delay but come away,
Unto this bed of mine.

[illegible] come to you [illegible] change,
young

And that night he may ſee her, as if ſhe came in her ſhift and peticoat which is a ſign ſhe will prove a eivil woman, but if ſhe comes in her ſhift only, ſhe will prove a ranter, and ſo better loſt. than found. Mother Bnnch, I give you my thanks for your good counſel, and intend to take your advice.

Upon a time Mother Bunch being at a wedding, where young men and maids where met, who had a mind for ſome diſcourſe with her, one young man ſaid Mother Bunch, we know you are a woman that has judgment in many things. I cannot tell fortunes, ſaid ſhe, but thou blinkst too much with one eye, to be true to one woman. Thou mayeſt come to marry a lady if thou canſt but lay a great wager with her three to one, and if ſhe iye with thee, thou wilt be very likely to win, or thou haſt metal in thee, but have a care ſhe wir

what name you fancy; put it into my

and you think you can love him be not scornful to him, but give him a civil entertainment, according to his behaviour, but be sure to hold your legs together tilll the authority is ſigned, when you may open them as wide as you can.

As to young men, they ſhould take my advice, chuse not one with a long noſe, a ſcolding brow, and thin lips, for in ſuch there is much danger, he that is ty'd to a ſcold is ty'd to sorrow, chuse uot one that is counted a ſlut, for if ſhe he a ſlut ſhe will be idle also; beſides this, the old saying is a ſlut will poiſon the gut,

But this is the beſt way of all others in chuſing a wife. Take one for love not

for

[illegible] come to you [illegible] e,

young

ſhall let you underſtand; it is the twelfth called St Agnes day. This St, Agnes has a favour for young men & maids, and will bring to their bedſides their sweethearts, if they follow my rules, on this day you muſt be sure to keep faſt, & neither eat nor drink all that day, nor night, neither let man, woman, or child kiſs thee on that day; & thou muſt be sure when thou goeſt to bed to put on a clean ſhift, & the beſt thou haſt, and clean clothes on thy head; for St. Agnes loves to see all clean when ſhe comes. When thou lieſt down lie as ſtraight as thou canſt, lay thy hands under thy head and say.

Now St. Agnes play thy part,
And send to me my own sweetheart;
And shew me such a happy bliss,
This night of him to have a kiss.

And beſure to fall aſleep as soon as you can, & before you awake out of your firſt ſleep, you ſhall ſee him come before you, & you ſhall perceive by his habit what tradesman he is; & beſure thou

declare not thy dream unto any one in ten days, & by that time thou mayeſt see thy dream come to paſs. All this I have proved three times; for I have had three huſbands, & have all proved tradeſmen; the firſt was a ſtraw joiner, the ſecond a louſe-trap maker, & the third a gentle craft; and he came to me with his awl in his hand, and would needs prick me; aye, & did prick, bnt did not hurt me; and so I waked out of my dream, & was never the worſe, but I thought the time long till he came again, as all maids do that deſire to be married. I know some maids would have a huſband with the beſt qualifications; nay, they would have impoſſibilities; but I am afraid they will make good the old proverb, that says

If you will not when you may,
When yon will you shall have nay.

Therefore take my advice, if a young man come to you of a civil carriage,

win not the odds, if ſhe does thou art clear gone so farewell.

Now Mother Bunch took her leave and going home, ſhe met a maid going to a wedding. how do you do mother? thank you daughter, whither are you going? to the wedding. I have ſome thing to ſay to ſay to you, what is it daughter? when ſhall I be married? would you fein be married? yes mother if I could get a good huſband. In the month of January are many dangerous dars for you to take notice of, theſe are, the firſt, ſecond. third, fourth and fifth; there are a great many more, but if thou make merry on these days, thy huſband will cuckold thee, or thou wiit make him one, or else you will soon be parted by one means or other; but for all there be so many bad days in this month, I can tell of one day which is lucky, & many young men & maids have a deal of hearts case on that day, or the day after

ſhall

for riches, which fly away, for true love never varies, and where that is, there blessing of God is. If you desire to live a long and happy life, be not over fond of riches, but chuse a civil handsome maid who is not given to pride, such a maid may may make fine wife, but she that brings you a handsome fortune will be always throwing it in your teeth, which often occasions great disturbance, therefore let this suffice for those who desire to get good wives, and take notice of what I have already said, and you may fare the better,

Aud as for young maids, this is my advice, if they will not try St Agnes, let them be sure to chuse a clever man who is able to do his work, for if you seek another to do that work, it may breed great dissention,

Thus endeth Mother Bunch's advice to all youg men and maids, wishing happy luck and fortune to them all. And now, rather than you shall think you have not enough for your money, the author has two merry songs,

Young

Tune of Cuddle my Cuddy.

YOUNG men and bachelors all,
Take notice of what I say;
The ſtrongeſt man may cacth a fall,
If with Venus he doth play.

It is nothing to woo a maid,
If you can pleaſe her withal;
But yet he soon may be betray'd
If ſhe chance backwards to fall.

Young Cubit's a pretty boy,
And Venus his mother loves ſport,
And young men delight to toy,
With pretty toys at court.

The Plowman he loves Joan,
Betty, Mary, and lovely Nan;
And he with a merry tone,
Can pleaſe them every one,

But Joan loves Jarvis the joiner
And Betty with Martin can bil,
And Mary loves George the gold-finder
And Nan loves George of the mill.

Tom

Tom Tinker loves Kate and her kettle,
And Kate thins him her beſt friend,
Becauſe he's a man a of mettle,
Concluding, my ditty doth end.

Another, to the same Tune.

ATTEND ye gentlemen all all,
A ſtory oft proves true;
For the poor ſuffer hunger and cold,
Which makes them look pitiful blue.

It was writ in an evening bright;
When Baccus began to be muddy,
And Luna began to give light,
Poor Tom fell into a ſtudy.

Which vexed his brain right ſore,
To ſee extortion did thrive,
And conſcience is kick'd out of door,
Such cruelty now is alive.

My ladv came down in her ſmock,
Whilſt Joan at ticket did play,
A cuckold the cradle may rock,
For he that is bound muſt obey.

He

NOW for those poor young creatures that have pined themselves to death and neglected the cure. I will shew you what I have collected from Trismegisthus and Cornelius Agrippa.

On Midſummer-eve, three or four of you muſt dip your ſhifts in fair water; then turn them wrong-ſide outwards, & hang them on chairs before the fire and lay ſome ſalt in another chair, and ſpeak not a word. In a ſhort time, the likeneſs of him you are to marry will come & turn your ſmocks, & drink to you; but if there any of you will never marry, they will hear a bell, but not the reſt.

Another way, quickly tried.

Take hemp-ſeed, and go into what place you will by yourſelf, carry the ſeed in your apron and with your right hand throw it over your ſhoulder, ſaying,

Hemp-ſeed I ſow, hemp-ſeed I ſow,
And he that muſt be my true love,
Come after me and mow.

And at the ninth time expect to ſee the figure of him you are to wed, or elſe hear a bell, as before.

Yet tho' you hear the ſad & diſmal bell,
It is your fault if you lead apes to hell.

Another

Another way.

You that dare venture into a church yard juſt as it ſtrikes twelve at nigt take a naked sword in your hand, & go nine times about the church, saying *Here's the sword, but where's the scabbord?* Which continue the whole time you go round; and the ninth time the perſon you are to marry will meet you with scabbard, and so kiſs you; if not a bell as before.

Another called the Dutch Cake.

Three four or more of you muſt make a cake of flouer & salt, (no matter what flouer) & some of each of your own water, make your cade broad, & each of you set the two firſt letters of your name with a pin, but leave such diſtance that it may be cut, then set if before the fire, but speak not a word. Turn it each of you once, & the perſon to be your huſband will cut out your name then the next unto the laſt If there be any who hear a bell, I wiſh I had them for my bedfellow, to prevent their leading apes in hell.

Another

Another Way.

The change of the new moon in the new year, the firſt time you see it hold your hands acroſs, srying this three times.

New moon, new moon I pray thee, (be
Tell me this night who my true love will

Then go to bed without ſpeaking a rd, and you will certainly dream of ne perſon you ſhall mary.

Another way, experienceq often.

Young men & maids may take ſome oſemary flowers, bay leaves, a little hyme, sweet marjoram, & southern-ood; make theſe into powder & with arley flower make a cake, but do not ake it. Lay this under your head any riday night; & if you dream of muſic, 'll wed thoſe you deſire in a ſhort if of the sea or ſhips you'll travel , if of a chuch, you muſt be con-nted to die ſingle.

Now Mother Bunch's ſtory's exh
She ſits her down to ſpin,
There ſtudies how ſhe ſoon may m
Her ſecond part begin.

Which now is finiſhed and ſold,
Where you have had the firſt,
'Twill make you wife alſo to laugh
Until your ſides do burſt.

END OF THE FIRST PART.